(c) and (d) No one has been apprehended so far and both the cases are under investigation.

Stamp Duty

5088. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stipulated stamp duty on property sale ranges from 8 to 14 per cent but the duty on transfer of equity is just 0.5 per cent of the sale price;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the process, the buyers will be able to save about Rs. 200 crores on stamp duty;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that ITDC has alreadey utilized this method for its 22 properties, 4 hotels which are stated to be sold on long-term lease-cum-management contract; and

(d) if so, what steps are being proposed by Governemnt to save the stamp duty?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) On the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission the Government had decided that the hotels of ITDC other than those in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be demerged into separate companies with the shadow shareholding pattern of ITDC and for disinvestment of 100% Government shareholding in these demerged companies. Ministry of Disinvestment has informed that each of the hotel units have been/would be sold on a 'going concern' basis and not in the form of real estate. Therefore, all contracts, assets, liabilities, litigations and employees of the hotel units would also be transferred to the respective bidders. The rate of stamp duty on transfer of real estate varies from State to State.

Fully paid up shares of these demerged companies have been/would be sold to the selected bidders. The stamp duty on transfer of shares is 0.5% of the sale consideration. Since the hotel properties of ITDC are not being sold on real estate basis, it would be inappropriate to evaluate the likely stamp duty collection by the Government on the real estate part of the 'going concern'.

The bidding process allows the bidders to assess their total liability on assuming the sale of the property as 'going concern'. Therefore, if they had to pay a higher stamp duty, they would have factored this into their bid and would

have reduced the bid value. Hence the ultimate disinvestment proceeds to the Government would have been the same irrespective of the transaction structure.

Setting up of major shrines in Tamil Nadu

5089. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently declared that Indian tourism would get a religious boost; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether revamping the set up of Vaishno Devi shrine has increased the pilgrims from 3 lakh to 60 lakh;

(c) whether Government would consider similar revamp in the set up of major shrines in Tamil Nadu and other Southern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) in what manner this revamp in the setup would help to develop tourism and tourists in these and nearby centers?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) The Government is considering various proposal to boost cultural tourism and due importance is given to domestic tourism and development of pilgrim centres in the country.

(b) The number of Pilgrims has increased manifold.

(c) Development of tourism including pilgrim centres is under, the purview of the State Government concerned.

(d) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that periods renovation of shrines are undertaken and basic tourist infrastructure facilities are provided in collaboration with local Town Planning Authorities and concerned Departments.

(e) The enhancing of basic tourist facilities and connectivity to the places of pilgrim centres will automatically bring more tourists to these places, thus contributing to development of tourism.

Undertakings and Corporations under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture

5090. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state: